After the Haj 2008 Review Meeting, the issues were addressed to Air India/Saudi Arabian airlines and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to ensure that all necessary measures be taken to remove difficulties faced in the past and the concerned authorities are taking suitable action.

Inclusion in UNSC

†2925. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has got an assurance from the international community for its inclusion in United Nations Security Council (UNSC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the future view of India in this regard; and

(d) the names of the countries which have extended their support in this matter alongwith the countries which have not supported it during the G-8 conference?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Several countries have expressed support for India's permanent membership within an expanded Security Council, An Inter-Governmental negotiation process for Security Council reform, including its expansion, is ongoing in an informal Plenary of the UN General Assembly in which India is actively participating.

(d) Does not arise. This issue was not on the agenda of the G-8-Outreach Interaction held in L'Aquila, Italy, from 8-10 July, 2009.

Transit business

2926. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take up the issue of transit business between northeastern States and the rest of the country across Bangladesh;

(b) whether the rivers and ports of Bangladesh would be made available through diplomatic talks enabling easy exercise of economy of both the North- Eastern States and Bangladesh; and

(c) the plan of Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) The issue regarding connectivity for North-Eastern States and rest of the country through Bangladesh has been regularly taken up with the Government of Bangladesh. Various proposals for strengthening connectivity between both countries are under discussion bilaterally, including through inland waterways, road, rail and ports. Government of India would continue to actively pursue these proposals with Bangladesh.

Camps in Sri Lanka

†2927. SHRI SHREE GOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of refugee camps built for the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka alongwith the total number of people living in them;

(b) whether any Government team is working there to take care of them;

(c) whether Government of Sri Lanka and Non-Governmental organization are extending help to them; and

(d) the time likely to be taken for their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) There are no refugee camps specifically for the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka, though camps have been set up for the Tamil population that has been displaced as a result of the recently concluded military conflict in Sri Lanka. There are estimated to be 279,208 Internally Displaced Persons accommodated in 32 camps as per information by UN Resident Coordinator, Colombo as of 2 July, 2009.

(b) Government has deployed a 60-member Field Hospital in Menik Farm in Vavuniya, Northern Sri Lanka to provide medical care to the internally displaced population. The hospital has been functioning in Sri Lanka since mid-March, 2009. Government is also providing other humanitarian assistance to IDPs in relief camps, including shelter material, family relief packs, medical supplies etc.

(c) Government of Sri Lanka as well as NGOs, both international and local, are assisting the IDP population.

(d) The Government of Sri Lanka have conveyed that they plan to dismantle the relief camps and have outlined a 180-day plan to re-settle the bulk of IDPs to their original places of habitation.

Arrangements for Hajis at Jeddah

2928. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a sub-Committee of Central Haj Committee under the existing Act to look after the arrangements for pilgrims at Jeddah during the Haj;

(b) whether it is a fact that Hajis have been complaining against the lodging and transportation arrangements made for them at Jeddah; and

(c) the steps that have been taken by the Central Haj Committee to resolve the complaints of the Hajis?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) No.

(b) There have indeed been some complaints regarding lodging and transportation arrangements in Jeddah.

(c) Ministry has taken up with all concerned to ensure that the pilgrims in the next Haj are not inconvenienced. The hiring of accommodation is proceeding satisfactorily and other logistical arrangements for Haj 2009 are being fine-tuned for making the pilgrimage a rewarding experience.